

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the above Amendment and the discussion below.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-11, 13-15 and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Ebinger et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,595,318) while claims 3, 7, 8, 12 and 16 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

In response to this rejection, Applicants have combined claims 1, 2 and 3 into an independent claim 1, while canceling claims 2 and 3 with claims 4-12 now depending directly or indirectly from independent amended claim 1. Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 16 with claims 14, 15 and 17-20 depending from amended independent claim 13.

Therefore, in view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter into each of independent claims 1 and 13, Applicants respectfully request that this application containing claims 1, 4-15 and 17-20 be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028987.52806US).

Respectfully submitted,

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